

With respect to patent applications, the applicants point out their duty under M.P.E.P. §2001.06(b) to disclose relevant patent applications of which they are aware. To this end, the applicants draw the Examiner's attention to the following patent applications;

1. U.S.S.N. 09/344,526, filed June 24, 1999 entitled "Decoding of Array Sensors with Microspheres," which claims priority to the instant application and U.S.S.N. 60/090, 473, filed June 24, 1998 entitled "Encoding and Decoding Fiber Optic Sensors with Microspheres."

2. U.S.S.N. 09/287,573, filed April 6, 1999 entitled "Self-Encoding Sensor with Microspheres," which is a continuation of 08/944, 850, filed October 6, 1997 entitled Self-Encoding Fiber Optic Sensor."

3. U.S.S.N. 09/315,584, filed June 20, 1999 entitled "Encoding and Decoding of Array Sensors Utilizing Nanocrystals."

4. U.S.S.N. 09/256,943, filed February 24, 1999 entitled "Composite Array Utilizing Microspheres," which claims priority to U.S.S.N. 60/113,968 filed December 28, 1998.

5. U.S.S.N. 09/151,877, filed September 11, 1998, entitled "Target Analyte Sensors Utilizing Microspheres," Which is a divisional of U.S.S.N. 08/818,199, filed March 14, 1997, entitled "Fiber Optic Sensor with Encoded Microspheres."

6. U.S.S.N. 08/851,203, filed May 5, 1997, entitled "Fiber Optic Biosensor for Selectively Detecting Oligonucleotide Species in a Mixed Fluid Sample."

None of the foregoing references are believed to disclose the invention as claimed. Nothing herein shall constitute an admission concerning the contents of any of the cited

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references, nor shall the inclusion of a reference herein be considered an admission that the reference constitutes prior art against the invention claimed in the above-identified application. Submission of the present document shall not be construed as an admission that a search has been made or that better art does not exist.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1300 (Our Order No. A-66828-1/DJB/RMS).

An additional copy of this Information Disclosure Statement is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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